

EDUCATION AT AVERY.

A TRADE SCHOOL OVER HALF A CENTURY OLD.

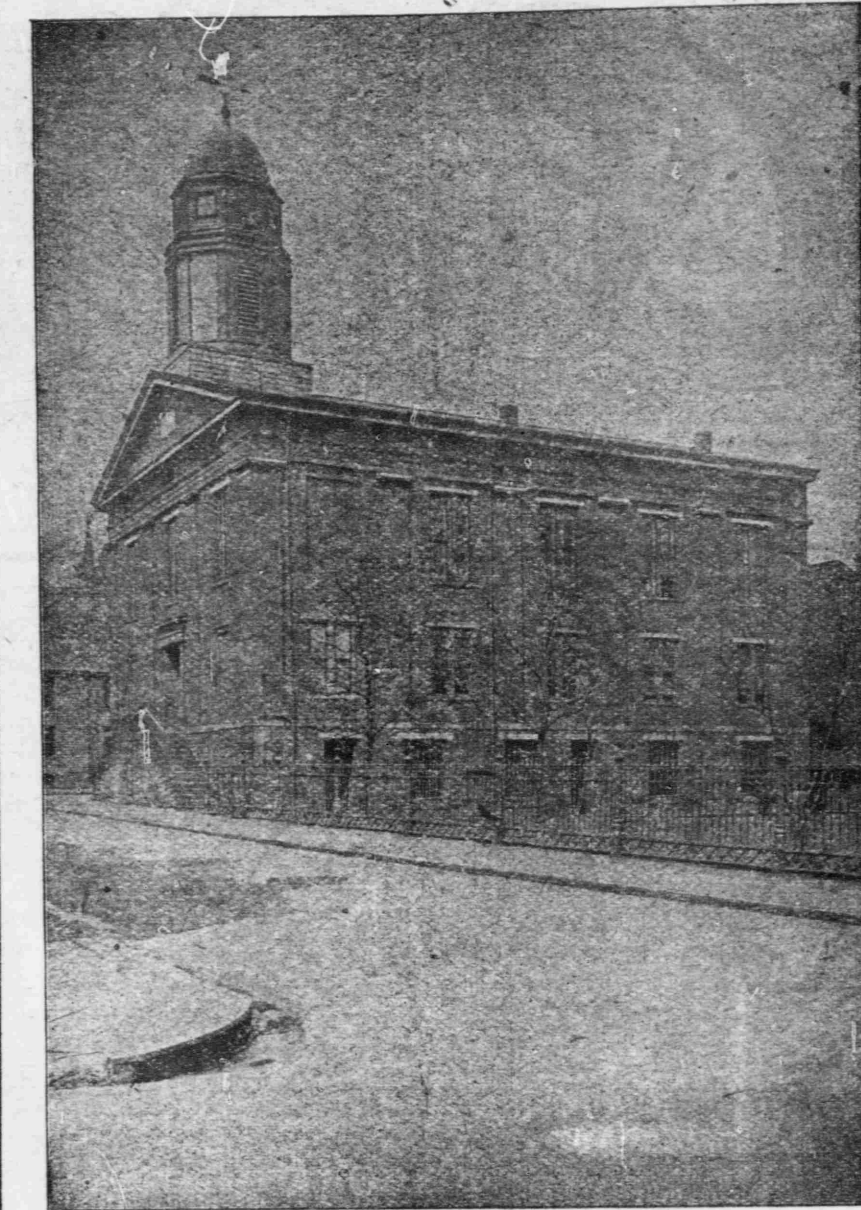
Negro More Needed in Mechanical Arts Than in Professions—Fully Equipped Industrial Departments for Both Sexes—Mr. Mahoney Manager and Treasurer for Fourth Term.

Allegheny, Pa., June 5.—Year by year the question of Negro education is growing in importance. Those who were once wards and servants are now citizens. The problem pressing upon us is how to make them worthy the place they occupy. Earnest and devoted men and women have been giving heart and brain to its solution for a third of a century. So much consecration and prayer cannot fail to bear fruit. It is now universally recognized that next to Christianity the mightiest factor in the elevation and betterment of the colored race, is education. This question is not as much of a sectional one as it was twenty-five years ago. The increase and cheapness of transportation facilities are scattering these people all over the country, and making them factors in the welfare of almost every community. Not a few of the great industrial concerns of the North are beginning to turn their eyes to the South for their labor instead of to Europe. Many believe this to be the natural course of things, and predict that we may look for a more marked turn of the labor market in this direction in the future. It will certainly be better for our country if a race that is already here and must remain here can be trained to supply the constantly growing demands for labor, instead of looking across the seas for men who, whatever their other qualities, are far from being American, both in history and spirit, as the Negro.

It is not as generally known as it should be that one of the oldest and best schools in the country for the education and manual training of the colored people is situated here. It had an honorable history and a useful career years before slavery was abolished. It is located on the corner of Avery and Nelson streets, and was founded by Rev. Charles Avery in 1849. Mr. Avery was a faithful and discerning friend of the Negro, and his heart yearned to open to the youth of that race the opportunity to secure the intellectual and manual training which they so much needed and of which they were so sadly deprived. The school is regularly chartered under the laws of Pennsylvania, and possesses all the legal privileges enjoyed by other colleges, such as conferring honorary degrees, etc. The board of trustees is composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. G. G. Turfley, John D. Cherry, Robert Jackson, Samuel Rosemond, Dr. G. M. Shilito, W. K. McGinness, H. Anderson, William Manley, Joseph D. Mahoney. The last named is manager.

It may be remarked in passing, that Mr. Mahoney has just been re-elected treasurer of the fund that maintains the school, making his fourth consecutive term. His bond of \$15,000 has been accepted by the court. This is a high compliment to the executive ability and fiduciary integrity of Mr. Mahoney.

Painstaking and efficient instruction is given along all lines of practical school work. The great aim of the institution, however, is the extension and improvement of industrial education as a means of opening wider and better avenues of employment and usefulness to colored young men and women. With this end in view the industrial department of the college has been equipped with the best improved machinery, tools, designs and other apparatus to help the pupil prepare himself or herself to enter into occupations requiring more skill. The equipment referred to is not surpassed by that of any other trade schools open to colored people in the country. This is the testimony of all who are familiar with the object of industrial education among the Negro race. The boys in this department are taught carpentry, brick-laying, plastering, painting, interior decorating and tailoring. The girls are given instruction in dressmaking, millinery and tailoring. Money and effort



AVERY TRADE SCHOOL, Allegheny Pa.

are not spared to secure abundant material for efficient work along all these lines. The boys are well supplied with lumber, brick, lime, sand, hardware, etc., and the girls with all the materials necessary to thoroughness in the different branches in which they are preparing themselves.

As an indication of the character of the work done, the demand for the students and graduates to enter the trades and teach in similar schools elsewhere is always in excess of the supply. Furthermore, the work which they do in the school always meets with a ready and profitable sale when it is put on the market. The proceeds of these sales go to the pupils. During the last term the distribution from all departments to the students amounted to over \$1,800. If the friends of the institution desire to donate materials for the use of the students in prosecuting their studies they may be sent to the director, Robert Jackson, 5424 Claybourne street, Pittsburg, Pa. A new building has recently been erected, which is used for dormitory for girls, in charge of a competent matron, providing room for fifty additional students, where all accommodations are furnished for \$10 per month.

The value of such an education to the race must appeal to every unprejudiced mind. It fits them to do things; and that is what the world wants. There is always an opening and a chance for the young man who undertakes his business and who can perform skillfully and well the service his generation wants. The Negro is more needed to-day in the trades than he is in the professions, and for this reason it is easier, where there is no unjust race prejudice, for him to get into the former than the latter. He will get along there with less friction and hostile competition than anywhere else. The education, therefore, that fits him to be a good workman is the one best adapted to prepare him for self-advancement and the highest service to mankind. The Negro, like the white man, can get work under normal conditions if he knows how to perform it. Avery College proceeds on this theory, and seeks to qualify its students to do some one thing well, so well that nobody

else can do it better. It does its work on the principle that success is the result of qualification; where this exists, opportunities will not be wanting and that most people who are without occupation to-day and have become strangers to success, are so because they are either not competent or not willing to perform the tasks that are naturally within their reach. It believes in the dignity of labor and instills the doctrine that every calling, however humble, is a science and can be elevated and made more effective by injecting into it the saving grace of intelligence and skill. By this high standard and the efficient character of the artisans she has turned out, Avery has won the enviable reputation she enjoys to-day.

But equipment and appointments do not make a school. Complete as these are, they would amount to but little were they not in the hands of faithful and competent instructors. The most careful attention is given to the selection of teachers. As the result of this policy Avery has always been in the hands of men and women of experience and special training, for the work in their charge. The pupils are daily under the influence and instruction of these earnest, active, efficient Christian teachers; so that while they are learning to handle skillfully the tools of trade, they are at the same time learning those lessons of character-making which turn out honest, capable and useful manhood and womanhood.

It must not be thought for a moment that no attention is given to the intellectual and moral training of the pupils. It is clearly recognized that there must be a basis of literary education under all kinds of special training. Avery maintains a department to supply this need. It gives instructions in all the common English branches, fully the equivalent of that afforded in the public schools of any State in the Union. The books are furnished free, and are identical with those used in the public schools in the city. A conservatory of music is maintained under the most efficient teachers, including instruction in piano-forte,

Continued on third page.

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